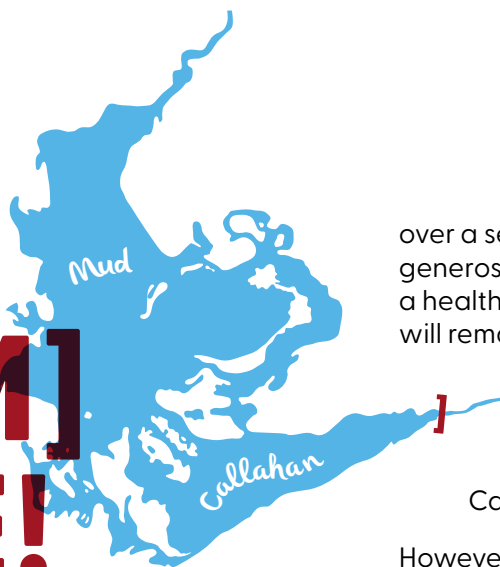


# SAVE OUR [DAM] LAKE!



over a series of years. As a result of the actions and generosity of many individuals, the lake was restored to a healthy state and with continued attention, the lake will remain as a navigable waterway that can support the multitude of bass, muskies, northern pike, panfish, loons, ducks, eagles, sandhill cranes, egrets, herons, trumpeter swans, river otters and other wildlife that call the Callahan-Mud Lake home.

However, as a result of a DNR dam assessment in 2022, a new challenge has surfaced, which will again require a coordinated response. The investigation of the dam determined that its condition was “poor”. The consequences of this is that the dam will need to be rebuilt, or the DNR will ultimately remove the dam in order to avoid the risks of a future dam failure.

The loss of the dam would return Callahan and Mud lakes to their former lake levels which, in turn, would compromise the recreation and wildlife that it supports and undoubtedly substantially reduce property values.

Fortunately, there is a solution and we have shown that we are capable of organizing as a community to successfully address challenges as was done with the Eurasian Milfoil.

## Last Century - A Rich Tradition

Since the time of the Ojibwe people and later when “Callahan Bill” Strasmus built his first home on its shores in 1914, Callahan Lake has been a place of sustenance and recreation. While originally 2 small lakes, the structure of a dam in 1939 created a flowage that flooded the area known today as Mud Lake to form 602 contiguous acres.

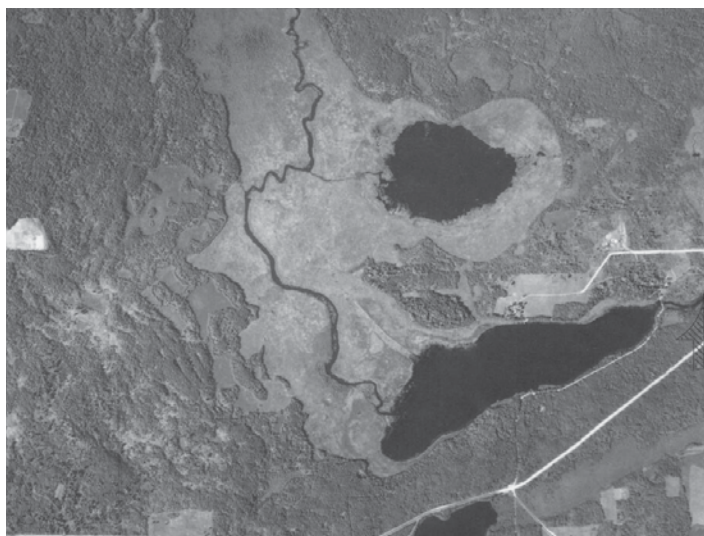
For generations, individuals and families have lived and vacationed here while enjoying the peaceful surroundings, natural beauty and wildlife.

## This Century – Ensuring the Future

In the early 2000s, the lake’s existence faced its first significant challenge in the form of an invasive species called Eurasian Milfoil. Recognizing the risk, the community banded together to form a Lake Association in order to raise funds to successfully treat the milfoil

## The Path Forward

After consulting with the DNR, Sawyer County, Round Lake Township, the UW Extension Office and knowledgeable engineers, we understand that there are two basic actions that are achievable and fortunately,



Before the dam’s construction.



The lake today.



within our control to coordinate. The first is to form a Lake District that establishes a legal government entity that can clarify dam ownership, be eligible to receive state funds, secure state loans and create a board of individuals to determine the optimal way to preserve our lake for all stakeholders. Secondly, the reconstruction of the existing dam will provide the ongoing ability to retain our lake and all of its positive benefits.

As simple as the above may sound, completing what is needed will require a series of parallel activities that include petitions, votes, elections, approvals,

engineering designs, cost estimates and more that will take multiple years to fulfill. Accordingly, a committee was formed by the Lake Association to help lead this effort and what is summarized above is a result of this committee's work thus far.

### For More Information and Support

Whether you were already familiar with the current issues at risk of impacting our lake or this is new information, undoubtedly you are interested in understanding more details about what is known and what can be done to bring this to a successful outcome.

A good place to start would be with the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) handout/website section.

There are several ways to stay informed including:

- staying attuned to the website once it is live later this summer and watching for updates;
- attending the Lake Association meetings and reading the meeting minutes that are distributed via email;
- contacting one of the committee members (see below);
- and, of course, volunteering to help with the tasks that will be needed to be accomplished along the way.



## Callahan-Mud Lake Protective Association (CMLPA)

**Website:**  
[www.callahanandmudlake.org](http://www.callahanandmudlake.org)

**Mail:** PO Box 13040, Hayward, WI 54843

### Dam Committee Volunteers

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Please join the CMLPA and support our efforts. Dues are \$50. Find a form on at [www.callahanandmudlake.org](http://www.callahanandmudlake.org). We also accept donations above the \$50 membership fee.